

in-America under the Berry Amendment, just as the Department of Defense has done since 1941.

I am pleased to support this legislation which will serve as a means to support hard-working farmers and small textile manufacturers that are, unfortunately, becoming more and more uncommon in the United States.

Moreover, as Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am always looking for ways to provide greater security for the United States. Representative KISSELL's legislation does just that.

At present, the uniforms worn by Department of Homeland Security personnel such as Customs and Border Protection Officers and Transportation Security Administration Officers are made in locations outside our Nation's borders.

On August 31, 2010, the Washington Post reported that drug couriers often move illegal drugs across the United States-Mexico border through the use of disguises.

Often times these "cloners" as they are referred to by law enforcement officials, wear false law enforcement uniforms made outside of the United States.

Under current policy, there is nothing to prevent these "cloners" from obtaining uniforms from foreign factories and using them to transport illegal drugs and other contraband across our borders.

By restricting the manufacturing of Department of Homeland Security uniforms to the United States, we will be taking a smart step forward to prevent foreign access to the badges, patches, and uniforms that identify our homeland security personnel.

This legislation has the support of the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, the National Council of Textile Organizations and the American Apparel and Footwear Association.

Considering our Nation's current economic situation and the need to take every effort to secure our borders, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, which will take sensible steps to create opportunities for domestic manufacturing, promote job creation in the United States, and make our country safer.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3116, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST RESPONDER ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING RESOURCES ACT

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3978) to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifts for otherwise authorized

activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for and response to terrorism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act".

SEC. 2. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS FOR FIRST RESPONDER TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in title V (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.), by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 525. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.

"(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may accept and use gifts of property, both real and personal, and may accept gifts of services, including from guest lecturers, for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to efforts to prevent, prepare for, protect against, or respond to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster, including the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

"(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not accept a gift under this section if the Secretary determines that the use of the property or services would compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of—

"(1) a program of the Department; or

"(2) an individual involved in a program of the Department.

"(c) REPORT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an annual report disclosing—

"(A) any gifts that were accepted under this section during the year covered by the report;

"(B) how the gifts contribute to the mission of the Center for Domestic Preparedness; and

"(C) the amount of Federal savings that were generated from the acceptance of the gifts.

"(2) PUBLICATION.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be made publically available.";

(2) in section 873(b) (6 U.S.C. 453(b)), by striking "and by section 93" and all that follows through "or donations" and inserting "by section 93 of title 14, United States Code, or by section 525 or 884 of this Act, gifts or donations"; and

(3) in section 884 (6 U.S.C. 464), by adding at the end the following:

"(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF GIFTS.—The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center may accept and use gifts of property, both real and personal, and accept services, for authorized purposes.".

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended in the table of contents by inserting after the item relating to section 524 the following:

"Sec. 525. Acceptance of gifts.".

(2) REPEAL.—The matter under the heading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" under the heading "FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER" under title IV of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2004 (6 U.S.C. 464a) is amended by striking "Provided, That in fiscal year 2004 and thereafter, the Center is authorized to accept and use gifts of property, both real and personal, and to accept services, for authorized purposes: Provided further," and inserting "Provided,".

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifts for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for a response to terrorism, and for other purposes.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of concurring in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3978, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As chairwoman of the Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response Subcommittee, I am pleased to join the original sponsor of this legislation, the ranking member of that very subcommittee, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, in strong support of the First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act.

Mr. ROGERS' district is home to the Center for Domestic Preparedness, also known as the Center throughout my comments, and one of the Nation's premier training sites. At the Center, thousands of first responders from all 50 States receive hands-on training for real world incidents involving chemical, biological, explosive, radiological and other hazardous materials.

As we saw last week on nationwide TV when a ruptured pipeline sent a ball of fire into the neighborhoods of San Bruno, California, completely blowing to pieces four homes, killing four people, in addition to four people who are still missing, this training is vital, and we must continue to find creative ways to strengthen it.

I am pleased that the legislation before us today will enhance the training of our first responders. Given the Center's leading role in all-hazards training, the facility often receives offers of resources and donations, including training displays, emergency response equipment, and guest lectures.

The ability to accept, process, and utilize these donations and gifts would strengthen the Center's ability to offer high-quality emergency response training, as well as in difficult times reduce costs for the Center itself.

Pursuant to current rules and law, the Center for Domestic Preparedness currently lacks the legal authority to accept these types of resources, gifts, and services. The enactment of H.R.

3978 would permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifted items for authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to all-hazards.

The legislation further directs the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, to report annually to Congress on any gifts that were accepted and how they might contribute to the Center's mission. The report must also describe the amount of federally funded savings that were generated from the acceptance of these gifts, which is very important as we look for ways to trim costs. The bill also amends the Homeland Security Act to authorize the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to accept and use gifts, donations, and services. For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Senate amendments to H.R. 3978.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 14, 2010.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I write to you regarding the Senate amendment to H.R. 3978, the "First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act".

We note that the Senate amendment to H.R. 3978 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Given that the House is scheduled to call up the measure without formal referral of the bills to committees of jurisdiction, I request an acknowledgement that nothing waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3978.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure in the House.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2010.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your letter regarding the Senate amendments to H.R. 3978, the "First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act."

I acknowledge that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in provisions contained within the Senate amendments to H.R. 3978. I further acknowledge that the lack of a formal referral of the Senate amendments to H.R. 3978 does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I will ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 3978.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of final passage of H.R. 3978, the First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act.

Thanks to strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, we are here today with legislation that provides the CDP with authority to accept donations of items such as railcars, subway cars, emergency response equipment, and other property and services that would help bolster training.

I introduced this bill last November to ensure that first responders who train at East Alabama's Center For Domestic Preparedness have access to all available resources that will strengthen their training activities.

This bill was passed by the House on December 15, 2009 by a vote of 413-1. On August 5, the bill passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent.

I would like to thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING as well as Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS for their support of the bill in moving it forward in both chambers.

The CDP, located in my district in Anniston, Alabama, delivers one-of-a-kind, hands-on training to America's emergency responders. Training at the CDP is fully funded by the Department of Homeland Security. State and local responders from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories have trained at this center.

Like other training centers, the CDP often receives offers of donations to assist their training courses. However, the CDP does not have the legal authority to accept those donations, and has been forced to turn them down in the past. My bill fixes this problem.

As amended by the Senate, the bill ensures that CDP may accept donations in support of its entire all-hazards missions. The bill also includes language to ensure that no gifts are accepted if they are determined to compromise the integrity or the appearance of integrity of a program of the department or an individual associated with the department, and the annual report to Congress on donations accepted must be made available to the public.

The bill would also authorize the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to accept gifts under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as it has been doing under the 2004 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

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Simply put, this legislation is a win-win for our first responders, the American taxpayer and the Center for Domestic Preparedness; and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the CDP—the Center for Domestic Preparedness—and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center are law enforcement training organizations for numerous Federal, State and local agencies, and they provide vital preparation to our law enforcement community. In fact, it could definitely benefit from the use of these additional resources. By allowing DHS-supported training centers to accept these gifts, this legislation will help tap into the generosity of the American people and the companies to enhance the training for thousands of first responders. In turn, I expect it will save a significant amount of taxpayer dollars.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important homeland security legislation, and I commend Mr. ROGERS for his efforts.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3978, a bill that would permit the Center for Domestic Preparedness and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to accept gifts and donations in order to better train our nation's first responders. As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I was pleased that H.R. 3978 received broad bipartisan support in the House and passed the Senate unanimously. I urge my colleagues to support the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3978.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness (Center) is the nation's leading all-hazards first-responder training center. The Center trains thousands of first responders and is especially well-known for its weapons of mass destruction training facility. It is of significant interest to the Committee and many of us have visited the campus to see the important training that takes place.

The Center often receives offers of donated goods and services, such as training displays, response equipment, and trailers. These donations would allow the Center to offer stronger training opportunities at a lower cost to the Department of Homeland Security and the American taxpayer. The Center, however, does not have the legal authority to accept gifts that would enhance its ability to deliver superior training.

The Senate Amendment to H.R. 3978 would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to permit the Center to receive donated gifts and services that are related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to all-hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters. The legislation further calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security to annually report to Congress on the gifts accepted, how the gifts contribute to the mission of the Center and the amount of Federal savings that were generated from the acceptance of the gifts.

The bill also amends the Homeland Security Act to authorize the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to accept and use gifts, donations, and services.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3978 will pay immediate dividends for our first responder community by enhancing their training with more resources. The Committee will continue to support these important training centers and the brave work of our first responders. I support the passage of the Senate

Amendment to H.R. 3978 and encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 3978.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARY OF LAW CREATING REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS)

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1595) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the passage of legislation that created real estate investment trusts (REITs) and gave millions of Americans new investment opportunities that helped them build a solid foundation for retirement security and has contributed to the overall strength of our economy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1595

Whereas, on September 14, 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law tax legislation enabling real estate investment trusts (hereinafter referred to as "REITs") to be established throughout the United States under regulations set by the Federal Government;

Whereas the passage of this legislation enabled REITs to provide all investors with the same opportunity to invest in large-scale commercial real estate that previously was open only to large financial institutions and wealthy individuals through direct investment in such real estate;

Whereas REITs have placed within the reach of the average American investor large-scale commercial real estate investment through publicly traded, regulated securities, which provide investors with transparency and liquidity;

Whereas REITs, by expanding the opportunity to invest in commercial real estate, a separate and distinct asset class important to the creation of balanced investment portfolios, have enabled millions of Americans to gain the benefits of dividend-based income, portfolio diversification and improved overall investment performance;

Whereas REITs have helped millions of Americans successfully invest for their retirement security over the past half-century; and

Whereas September 14, 2010, will mark the 50th anniversary of the legislation that created this REIT investment opportunity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives recognizes the 50th anniversary of the passage of the legislation that created real estate investment trusts (REITs) and the enhanced opportunities for investment and retirement security that have been afforded to Americans from all walks of life as a result of this landmark legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 1960, President Eisenhower signed legislation into law, creating real estate investment trusts.

House Resolution 1595 celebrates the 50th anniversary of REITs, as they are called, and the enhanced opportunities they provide for investments in real estate by Americans from all walks of life. REITs allow individual investors to purchase interests in portfolios of real estate assets. In many instances, REITs also operate the properties that they own.

To qualify as a REIT, these companies must distribute 90 percent of their income back to their shareholders in the form of dividends. As noted in the resolution, REITs have given average American investors access to large-scale commercial real estate investment opportunities through publicly traded, regulated securities, which provide investors with transparency and liquidity.

Four REITs are headquartered in my home State of Tennessee, and nearly 800 Tennessee properties are owned by REITs. Across the country, REITs own approximately \$500 billion commercial real estate properties, approximately 10 to 15 percent of institutionally owned commercial real estate.

In 2009, REITs paid over \$13.5 billion in dividends. More than 30 countries around the world have passed legislation enabling REITs. Again, they have helped millions of average American investors to participate in the real estate markets of this country as well as others.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge the passage of House Resolution 1595, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIBERI. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. TIBERI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIBERI. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee as well for being here on the floor to recognize that 50 years ago, in fact, this week, President Eisenhower signed into law legislation that created real estate investment trusts, or REITs, as the gentleman said, which are investment vehicles that have allowed millions and millions of Americans expanded opportuni-

ties to invest in commercial real estate.

Mr. Speaker, while we take for granted that middle class investors and middle class Americans across our country have the opportunity to invest in commercial real estate, it is important to note that prior to 1960 it was only large financial institutions and wealthy Americans who had the means to do so. Over the last 50 years, REITs have greatly expanded that opportunity by allowing investors of all income levels to buy publicly traded, regulated shares of these commercial real estate investment vehicles.

REITs haven't just allowed middle class Americans to diversify their investment portfolios. They have also helped build our local communities—a true win-win situation. Indeed, over the last five decades, these investment vehicles have helped finance important commercial real estate projects in every one of our congressional districts across our country—from hotels to shopping malls, to hospitals, to office parks. In fact, in my congressional district, I am honored to have a number of important entities that are REITs, that truly people in our district don't even realize are real estate investment trusts, which, collectively, employ thousands of central Ohioans. Fifty years after enactment, REITs remain an important part of our Tax Code.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill with Congressman LEVIN and Congressman CAMP, the lead sponsors; and I am pleased to be part of this resolution of recognizing their 50-year anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Let me thank the manager for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the passage of legislation that created real estate investment trusts.

I happen to come from the City of Chicago. I represent downtown Chicago, and of course it is an investment opportunity, not only in Chicago but all over America, for individuals to make use of this opportunity. So, for the last 50 years, they have had that opportunity, and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow and to develop. I appreciate the opportunity to say that I think real estate investment trusts are very important to the economy of our country, and I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman from Tennessee's agreeing for me to speak on this.